

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7529

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: PRESIDENCY OF COMMISSION NARCOTIC DRUGS

REF: STATE 098380

FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE

1. DURING COURSE OF A CORDIAL VISIT WITH OJEDA PAULLADA, I WAS ABLE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER IN A RELAXED AND OPEN MANNER. OJEDA IS OBVIOUSLY STILL DISAPPOINTED THAT "THE RULES OF THE CLUB" ARE SUCH AS TO PERHAPS PRECLUDE HIS ATTAINING THE PRESIDENCY OF THE CND. HE STILL DOES NOT RULE THIS OUT ALTOGETHER BUT WISHES FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN IT FOR MEXICO IN THE PERSON OF CASTRO Y CASTRO, IF NOT FOR HIMSELF. HE MAINTAINED STOUTLY THAT ONLY DUE TO ILLNESS (INCIDENTALLY ALMOST FATAL) OF CASTRO Y CASTRO WAS HE UNABLE TO BE IN GENEVA AND THUS TO OBTAIN THE VICE PRESIDENCY. HE THUS WISHES TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER ONCE CASTRO Y CASTRO RESUMES HIS PHYSICAL PRESENCE AT CND MEETING HE COULD THUS RE-ENTER THE RUNNING. OJEDA WOULD LIKE OUR INTERIM OPINION ON THIS. ULTIMATELY CASTRO Y CASTRO WOULD COMMENCE HIS PERSONAL CAMPAIGN AMONG FELLOW MEMBERS OF CND, PUSHING HIS "RIGHTS" TO THE

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PRESIDENCY.

2. I TOLD OJEDA THAT WE WOULD IN NO WAY OPPOSE SUCH A CAMPAIGN BUT STRESSED THAT WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CAMPAIGN FOR HIM UNLESS HE IS ABLE TO WORK OUT SOME ACCOMMODATION WITH THE SOVIETS. OJEDA THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS A STRONG POSSIBILITY IN VIEW OF FRIENDLY MEXICAN/SOVIET RELATIONS AND ALSO OF THE OPINION THAT AN ACCOMMODATION COULD BE WORKED OUT IF THE SOVIETS WERE ASSURED THAT THEY COULD HAVE THE PRESIDENCY THE FOLLOWING YEAR. IT WAS POLITICALLY IMPORTANT FOR MEXICO TO HAVE THE PRESIDENCY BEFORE THE ECHEVERRIA TERM EXPIRED WHILE THE RUSSIANS WERE NOT FACED WITH THIS TIME LIMIT AND MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO WAIT ONE YEAR.

3. I BELIEVE THAT OJEDA NOW REALIZES THAT THE PRESIDENCY IS AD PERSONUM AND CASTRO Y CASTRO COULD NOT HAND IT OVER TO HIM, AS A HIGHER RANKING OFFICIAL, AS HE CONCE THOUGHT. HE HOPED, HOWEVER, THAT WITH A MEXICAN PRESIDENCY IT WOULD STILL BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO VISIT THE CND FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS, MAKING A PRESENTATION ON THE MEXICAN NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN AND PARTICULARLY ON VARIOUS CHANGES IN MEXICAN LAWS IN THIS REGARD THAT HAD BEEN OR WOULD BE MADE.

4. MEXICO'S ASPIRATIONS DO NOT SEEM TOO FAR OUT OF LINE TO ME AND I HOPE THAT WE IN TURN WILL NOT BE MORE PAPIST THAN THE POPE IN REGARD TO THE "RULES OF THE CLUB", KEEPING IN MIND THAT CASTRO Y CASTRO'S ILLNESS WAS INDEED A CASE OF FORCE MAJEURE. JOVA

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